

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

SUBJECT Travel, Documentation and  
Controls of Soviet Troops

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85. TRAVEL, DOCUMENTATION AND CONTROLS

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Travel from Soviet Zone to East BERLIN - for Soviet Forces.

2. No member of the Soviet Occupation Forces - either officers or O.R.s - may travel to East BERLIN for any reason whatever without a special Propusk (Permit).

3. Officers and O.R.s occasionally go to BERLIN on duty or on conducted excursions. It is most unlikely that anyone would be allowed to go there on leave.

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groups of about twenty men having gone on excursions from units in other towns.

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4. In addition to the Propusk, an officer or O.R. would require a Movement Order (Komandirovochnoe Udostoverenie) if he travelled on duty. If he travelled as a member of a group excursion, it is probable that the officer in charge of the group would have one Propusk and one Movement Order covering all the members, whose individual names would be listed on both documents.

5. Officers travelling to BERLIN on duty would most likely be from Intelligence, Signals or Administrative (Intendantskie) units, as there are few other units stationed in the capital.

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7. Its title is something like "Propusk na svobodnyj v'ezd v sovetskij sektor goroda BERLIN" ("Permit to allow entry into the Soviet sector of BERLIN"). It is blue/green in colour and has a broad red diagonal stripe across it. It is always signed by the Chief of Staff of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (Nachal'nik Shtaba Gruppy Vojsk v Germanii). The signature was that of General TARASOV. There is also a rubber stamp with a Field Post Number on it (presumably the F.P.N. of the Group). Blank Propusks - already signed - are sent to the H.Q. of each Army in Germany, but not to lower levels. Each unit has to apply through the normal channels to Army H.Q. for the issue of Propusks, which may only be granted by the O.C. of the respective Army. If, for example, the NORDHAUSEN Komendatura wished to obtain a Propusk, application would have to be made to Army H.Q. via the District Komendatura (Okruzhnaya Komendatura).

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Travel to German Zonal Frontier Areas - for Germans.

8. Along the Soviet side of the Soviet/Western zonal frontier in Germany there are two zones to which travel for Germans (apart from transit) is allowed only with a Permit :

- (a) a zone 500 metres deep adjoining the frontier;
- (b) a zone 5 kilometres deep behind (a).

The Permit for (a) is white, for (b) blue-green in colour.

9. Until the end of 1953 or early 1954 the Permits, which were issued, signed and stamped by the East German Police, had to be approved by the local Soviet Komendant. Without his stamp the Permit was not valid. In many cases the Komendant arbitrarily vetoed travel to the frontier zones.

10. Since the end of 1953 or early 1954 it has no longer been necessary to obtain Soviet approval for the issue of Permits, which is now done entirely by the East German Police. The Soviet authorities are no longer either consulted or informed about the issue. The Permit, which is printed in German and Russian, contains :

- (a) Full name of holder;
- (b) Description of holder;
- (c) Mode of travel and route;
- (d) Signature and rubber stamp of the local Chief of Police.

11. When applying for a Permit to visit a frontier zone the intending traveller should obtain a letter of invitation from the persons (friends or relatives) whom he wishes to visit, certified by the local Mayor, and produce it with his application to the Police. The only other reason for which a Permit is issued is in connexion with employment, in which case a certificate from the employer is required. Permits are, however, now readily granted when the above-mentioned supporting documents are produced. On public holidays, such as Easter and Christmas, many people succeed in travelling without Permits.

Travel on German Trains - for Soviet Forces.

12. On most, if not all, German trains in the Soviet Zone of Germany one coach is attached - usually in the middle - for the exclusive use of the Soviet forces. All personnel using it should be in possession of either a Movement Order (Komandirovochnoe Udostoverenie) or a Leave Pass (Otpusknoj Bilet) in addition to a railway ticket. There is, however, normally no document check in these coaches (except on the outskirts of BERLIN or near the frontiers). A German ticket inspector usually comes round to check tickets only.

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Controls and Checks carried out by Soviet Komendaturas.

17. Up to the end of 1953 or early 1954 officers of the Soviet Komendaturas were empowered to check the documents of any Russian or German - in uniform or mufti - whom they believed to be acting suspiciously. [REDACTED]

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- (a) A German civilian who had been loitering for over an hour outside the Komendatura was brought inside the Komendatura, questioned, and asked for his documents. These were in order. As nothing suspicious could be proved he was soon released.
- (b) On the day following STALIN's death in March 1953, when official mourning had been proclaimed in the Soviet Zone, three drunken Germans were singing rowdy songs and generally making a nuisance of themselves in the street. [REDACTED] the two soldiers on patrol [REDACTED] took the Germans to the Komendatura on the grounds that they were being disrespectful ("Za neuvazhenie"). The German Police were called. The drunks were soon released. One of them, who had no identity documents on him, was first fined 15 Ostmarks on the spot.

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18. In general, if a German seemed particularly suspicious after preliminary questioning at the Komendatura, the normal procedure would be to summon the German Police. In serious cases, such as suspected espionage, the Komendant would also telephone the Osobyj Otdel (Special Section) at NOHRA. If a non-German civilian should be detained, there would technically speaking be no need to inform the German Police.

19. After the end of 1953 or early 1954, when the DDR had been granted a greater measure of sovereignty, the Soviet Komendaturas were bound to summon the German Police at once for the questioning or document checking of any German whom they wished to detain.

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Soviet Komendatura Patrols in NORDHAUSEN

20. A patrol, usually consisting of one Duty Officer and two O.R.s, patrolled the town of NORDHAUSEN every evening between about 2030 and 0100 hrs, and on Saturdays and Sundays between about 2000 and 0200 hrs. Daytime patrols were only sent out in case of emergency [redacted]

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21. In addition to their normal duties, the Komendatura officers had - after the rising of 17th June, 1953 - each been allotted a number of points in NORDHAUSEN the security of which they were supposed to supervise in the event of any repetition of strikes, disorder, sabotage, etc. [redacted]

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25X1Documentation of Soviet Personnel in Germany

22. Officers - Must always carry with them their Identity Document (Udostoverenie Lichnosti). If in a place where they are not stationed, must also have either (a) Leave Pass (Otpusknoj Bilet) or (b) Movement Order (Komandirovochnoe Udostoverenie).

23. O.R.s - Must always carry with them their Army Book (Sluzhebnyaya Knizhka). They are not normally allowed out of barracks except between about 1500 and 1800 hrs on Saturdays and between 1000 and 1800 hrs on Sundays, and then only in groups of two or more. The senior man in charge of the group must have a walking-out pass (Uvol'nitel'naya Zapiska), on which the date and time of leave of absence are marked; the pass is usually signed by the officer in charge of the formation (i.e., platoon, company, battalion, etc.) to which the bearer belongs, and is stamped with the unit stamp with F.P.N. (Note: A walking-out pass in the USSR is valid for up to 48 hours, but in Germany usually for not more than 12 hours.) If an O.R. is in a place where he is not stationed he must have, in addition to his Army Book, either (a) Leave Pass or (b) Movement Order. It is very rare to see an O.R. in public alone.

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24. Civilians attached to the Soviet Army ("Vol'nonaemnye") - Must always carry on them their external passport (Zagranichnyj Pasport). If in a place where they are not stationed, must also have (a) Leave Pass or (b) Movement Order.

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(NOTE: Only officers are allowed to enter public German places, such as cafes, etc. An O.R. in one of them would be immediately questioned.)

Checks by German Police

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26. In NORDHAUSEN - a frontier area where there were large numbers of uniformed German frontier and other police - police checks took place most nights (especially at week-ends) in most restaurants (especially at the H.O. Gaststätte). Normally only uniformed Germans were asked for their documents, and had to produce their walking-out pass (Ausgangsschein) and Identity Document (Personalausweis). The checks were carried out by the Volkspolizei, Grenzpolizei and Transportpolizei, each of whom checked their respective service.

27. It is very rarely that German civilians are asked for their documents, even if they are not known to the local Police.

28. At closing time (usually at 2400, 0100 or 0200 hrs) the local Volkspolizei in NORDHAUSEN visit most restaurants to ensure they are not overstepping the limits.

29. Document checks of Germans very seldom take place at NORDHAUSEN railway station, although Volkspolizei are usually on duty there.

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